CLASSIFICATION

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

INFORMATION FROM FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS

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USSR - Lithùania

DATE OF INFORMATION 1950 STAT

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REPORT NO.

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SOURCE

Lietuviu Dienos, Vol I, No 4, 1950.

PARTISAN NEWSPAPERS IN LITHUANIA

To counteract the Communist press, the propaganda mouthpiece of the presento rulers of Lithuania, the Lithuanian partisans publish about ten underground papers which give true facts to the enslaved people. The partisan leadership gathers world news with the help of secret radio receivers and later disseminates this news through the illegal papers. The partisan papers also publish local news and political predictions, and expose the lies of the Communist press. The newspapers are circulated by armed partisans at night. The people anxiously await these papers which are later passed from hand to

The Soviet Military Government knows about these publications and has offered rewards for information as to the location and identity of the publishliers, editors, and readers of the partisan papers. Despite this, traitors are very seldom found among the Lithuanians, and publication of the underground papers continues regularly.

The Soviet government also employs various other means to stop the partisan papers, for instance, restriction on sale of newsprint. In order to ship newsprint from the factories, a series of permits is required, proving that it will be used for legitimate purposes. The slightest suspicion to the contrary may cause imprisonment of the persons involved. All the paper mills are guarded by MVD personnel. It is very difficult to purchase paper in the stores, especially in Kaunas and Vilnius. The clerks in stores where is sold are all MVD agents. If a person inquires too often about purchase of paper, he is placed under police surveillance; should he ask for a few hundred sheets of paper in a store, he would be immediately arrested.

In spite of all these precautions, however, the schemes of the occupation forces do not succeed. Quite often government officials discover, 6 months after the event, that a shipment of paper from a certain mill has mysteriously disappeared. All attempts are then made to find the guilty ones, but it is usually too late, as the person involved has already left the agency to which the paper had been sent.

The partisan papers constitute a grave problem to the occupation forces in Lithuania.

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